



Naming Committee

Honouring People and Places in Our City



7th Floor, 10250 - 101 Street
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Carolyn and Richard Nutter

Richard Nutter (1940)

Carolyn Nutter (1941)

After settling into the Strathcona neighbourhood, the Nutter's became activists for the area by ensuring that it would always remain a community. They worked relentlessly to preserve family oriented housing, as well as the greenspace that surrounds the neighbourhood.

Richard (Butch) was born in Shelby, Montana on November 25, 1940, and Carolyn was born in Kingston, Ontario on October 27, 1941. Butch received his Bachelor of Science degree from Montana State University in 1962 and attended graduate school at Queen's University. This is where he met Carolyn, as she was pursuing her Bachelor of Arts degree. Butch went on to receive his PhD in psychology from the University of Alberta, and Carolyn received her Master's in psychology and Master's in Social Work from the University of Calgary.

In the 1960s, the two moved to Edmonton from San Francisco and bought a small home near 99th Street at a time when the neighbourhood was not very desirable. At this time, turnover in the neighbourhood was high, part of Whyte Avenue was being considered to be torn down, a 12-lane highway from the south side to downtown was being proposed, and there was a proposal to build a bridge across the North Saskatchewan River from the End of Steel Park to downtown. Many felt that this neighbourhood was in the way of a development and access to downtown.

Since the Nutter's saw the development of freeways in California, they knew the Strathcona area was at risk of being destroyed for the same type of development. They began to gather support and organize groups to stand up for the community and save Whyte Avenue and the greenspace along the CN Rail Tracks. The Nutter's also aided in convincing city council to vote against the proposed freeway development and fought alongside Joe Wynburg to save the Mill Creek Ravine by ensuring that it remained a natural area.

Another important issue occurred as the City began planning to rezone the area. It would greatly affect the west side of 99th Street and allow multi-family dwellings which would accommodate a transient or short term residence for a variety of individuals. The area would lack a sense of community. Butch assembled a committee to guide the Strathcona Area Redevelopment Plan (ARP) in order to reinforce the importance of creating a sense of community and ensuring family oriented housing was a priority. In the end, the Strathcona ARP became the first ARP down zone.

Caroline and Butch were instrumental in the funding and construction of the Strathcona Centre Community League building, contributing to a sense of place and community that residents feel. Carolyn became the Community League Treasurer at this time. Butch played a major role in the creation of the Greater Edmonton Alliance, bringing together community groups and social agencies to articulate a grass-roots vision revolving around how Edmonton can become a more social and livable city.



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The Strathcona Centre Community League awarded the Nutter's a plaque in appreciation for their years of service in 1983 and a lifetime membership for long and valuable service in 1987. In 1985, Mayor Lawrence Decore presented Butch with the City of Edmonton Appreciation Certificate for Meritorious Service to the City of Edmonton. Butch and Carolyn have also received many awards in recognition of their professional careers as Social Workers.

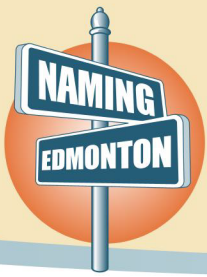
Butch retired from the Faculty of Social Work, University of Calgary, Edmonton Division in 1995. He is currently working as Professor Emeritus of Social Work at the University of Calgary. Carolyn retired from the Centre for Addiction and mental Health in 2000. The two are members of Urban Green, a group of families working together to develop cohousing in Strathcona Centre on 88th Avenue and 101st Street. The Nutter's currently spend their summers in Chelsea, Quebec and return to Edmonton each winter.

In a statement written about the Nutter's, they are described as individuals who have set examples of courage and determinism that have inspired other generations to continue protecting the Mill Creek Ravine and other important areas to create a strong and vibrant neighbourhood. The beautiful Strathcona neighbourhood is built upon a mindset of community, and this is the Nutter's legacy.

*Written by Danielle Ferchoff
June 2014*

CITATION ON FILE

Naming Committee support documents provided by Jan Olson, 2014.



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NOTE:

This Map is Conceptual Only,
Not to Scale, and Subject
to Change



88 AVENUE

100 STREET

99 STREET

87 AVENUE

NUTTER'S CORNER

86 AVENUE

NUTTER'S CORNER

Strathcona Neighbourhood

April 30, 2014
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